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09/880,488	06/13/2001	Daylan B. Darby	042390.P11668	5256
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EXAMINER				
HU, JINSONG				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2454				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/23/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Supplemental
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/880,488

Examiner

JINSONG HU

Applicant(s)

DARBY, DAYLAN B.

Art Unit

2454

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERIT IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to interview held on 3/5/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8-10, 13-16, 19-22, 26-28 and 30, renumber as 1-15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|---|

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears bellow. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as proved by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. This is a supplemental action of Examiner's Amendment mailed on 2/26/09. New version of claims 8 and 26 are presented in this action. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Sharmini N. Green (Reg. No. 41,410) on March, 5, 2009.

In the Claims:

- I. Please cancel claims 1-7, 11-12, 17-18, 23-25 and 29.
- II. Please amend claims 8, 10, 13-16, 19-22 and 26 as follow:

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A method performed by a processor for providing a single electronic mail file containing electronic mail data and variable meta data, the method of encoding electronic mail comprising:

combining into a single electronic mail file the electronic mail data and the variable meta-data information, wherein the variable meta-data describes the electronic mail data;

monitoring changes to the variable meta-data information with a header wherein the header operates as an encoder and monitors changes to the variable meta-data information, the header additionally monitoring location information identifying the position of the electronic mail data within the electronic mail file; and
recompute the variable meta-data information;
attempt delivery of the electronic mail file;
rewrite the variable meta-data information;
change location information contained within the header; and
send the electronic mail file to a receiving computer.
~~monitoring a location of the electronic mail data within the electronic mail file with the header.~~

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the variable meta-data information is referenced in the header.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A ~~tangible~~ computer readable storage medium having computer readable instructions encoded therein to:
accept an electronic mail connection;
receive a single electronic mail file comprising electronic mail data combined with meta-data information describing the electronic mail data, the single electronic mail file further comprising a header which operates as an encoder

and monitors changes to the variable meta-data information, the header additionally monitoring location information identifying the position of the electronic mail data within the electronic mail file with links to the meta-data information and a location of the electronic mail data;
record the electronic mail data;
compute and record the variable meta-data information;
compute and record links the location information contained within the header;
and
~~pass~~ send the electronic mail file containing the electronic mail data and the variable meta-data information to a receiving computer for processing.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The ~~tangible~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the electronic mail data is of variable length when unrecorded and is of fixed length when recorded.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) The ~~tangible~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the variable meta-data information is referenced in the header.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The ~~tangible~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the header links include links to a start of the electronic mail data, to an electronic mail sender, and to an electronic mail recipient.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A ~~tangible~~ computer readable storage medium having computer readable instructions encoded therein to:

open a single electronic mail file containing combined electronic mail data and meta-data information describing the electronic mail data, the single electronic mail file further comprising a header which operates as an encoder and monitors changes to the variable meta-data information, the header additionally monitoring location information identifying the position of the electronic mail data within the electronic mail file with links to the meta-data information and a location of the electronic mail data;
recompute the variable meta-data information;
attempt delivery of the electronic mail file;
rewrite the variable meta-data information;
change the links location information contained within the header; and
close the electronic mail file.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) The ~~tangible~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the electronic mail data is of variable length when unrecorded and is of fixed length once recorded.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) The ~~tangible~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the variable meta-data information is referenced in the header.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) The ~~tangible~~ computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the header includes links to a start of the electronic mail data, to an electronic mail sender, and to an electronic mail recipient.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) A method performed by a processor ~~[[of]]~~ for providing a single electronic mail file from a sending computer to at least one receiving computer within a data communication network, the method comprising:

establishing a simple mail transfer protocol (SMTP) session between the sending computer and the at least one receiving computer by;
generating SMTP commands by the sending computer;
sending the SMTP commands to the at least one receiving computer; and
sending receiving SMTP replies from the at least one receiving computer to
on the sending computers;
sending the single electronic mail file from the sending computer to the receiving
computer, wherein the single electronic mail file includes combined electronic mail data and variable meta-data information describing the electronic mail data, and a header which operates as an encoder and monitors changes to
the variable meta-data information, the header additionally monitoring location
information identifying the position of the electronic mail data within the

~~electronic mail file containing links to the meta data information and to a location of the electronic mail data within the electronic mail file.~~

Reasons for allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's claimed invention distinguished over the prior art for the following reasons. The claims are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the references, either alone or in combination, discloses or renders obvious the method for combining the meta data of the email and the files that represent the email data into a single file and encoding a header for monitoring the changes to the meta-data and the location of the actual data within the file. Furthermore, the limitation of "computer readable storage medium", which is disclosed in the claims, only refers to hardware storage medium.

Conclusion

4. Any comments considering necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jinsong Hu whose telephone number is (571) 272-3965. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Jinsong Hu/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454